

2-1800



Intelligence Information Cable

ROUTINE

IN 359170

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STATE/INR DIA NMCC/MC (SECDEF JCS ARMY NAVY AIR)

NIC NSA SDN

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CITE TDCS -314/06318-71

DIST 17 JUNE 1971

COUNTRY SOUTH VIETNAM

DOI JUNE 1971

CAMP 20G Barnes

SUBJECT SIGHTING OF U.S. AND SOUTH VIETNAMESE PRISONERS OF WAR

REPORT LOG #: 1443

1:50,000 Coord:

IN VIET CONG SECRET ZONE LOCATED AT NUI DAI MOUNTAIN,

1:250,000 Coord:

CHAU DOC PROVINCE

UTM Card: ✓

INFO Card:

ACQ

VIETNAM, SAIGON, 12 JUNE 1971

SOURCE

1. ON 2 JUNE 1971 FOUR U.S. PRISONERS OF WAR (POW) AND AN UNSPECIFIED NUMBER OF CAPTURED ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM

APPROVED FOR RELEASE

Date 20 AUG 1979

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(classification)

(dissem controls)

ARVN) PRISONERS WERE SIGHTED IN THE AREA OF THE VIET CONG (VC) SECRET ZONE AT VS925568, ON NUI DAI MOUNTAIN NEAR BA CHU VILLAGE, IEN BIEN DISTRICT, CHAU DOC PROVINCE. THE U.S. POWS WERE ON A FOOD-CHOPPING DETAIL WHEN THEY WERE SEEN. COMMENT: JUDGING FROM PREVIOUS REPORTING, IT IS HIGHLY UNUSUAL FOR U.S. POWS TO BE ASSIGNED TO WORK DETAILS.)

2. FOR A CONSIDERABLE TIME THE VC HAVE BROUGHT POWS TO THIS SECRET ZONE, WHERE BOTH U.S. AND ARVN POWS ARE HELD DEEP WITHIN A LABYRINTH OF NATURAL TUNNELS. POWS ARE BROUGHT TO THIS ZONE EVERY THREE MONTHS, AND IT IS BELIEVED THAT THE NUI DAI SECRET ZONE SERVES AS BOTH A HOLDING AND A STAGING CENTER FOR THE ONWARD MOVEMENT OF POWS HELD BY THE VC IN THIS AREA.

3. THERE ARE THREE CAVES THAT SERVE AS ENTRANCES INTO THE CAVERNS DEEP IN THE MOUNTAIN. CAVE 1 IS OCCUPIED BY VC ENGINEER PERSONNEL WHO OPERATE A WORKSHOP FAR WITHIN THE MOUNTAIN. CAVE 2 HOUSES THE POWS, AND CAVE 3 IS OCCUPIED BY REAR SERVICE PERSONNEL ASSIGNED TO WORKSITE 5. IN ADDITION, THERE ARE TWO VC COMPANIES, THE 802ND AND THE 805TH, ASSIGNED TO THIS AREA. COMMENT: WHILE IT IS NOT UNPRECEDENTED FOR VC COMPANIES TO HAVE THREE-DIGIT NUMERICAL DESIGNATIONS, IT IS NOT A COMMON PRACTICE.)

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(classification)

(dissem controls)

4. THE SECRET ZONE IS WELL COVERED BY A DENSE GROWTH OF TREES, AND THE THREE CAVES ARE DIFFICULT TO SIGHT FROM THE AIR. THEIR DEPTH RENDERS THEM PRACTICALLY IMMUNE TO DAMAGE BY AIR ATTACK.

5. FIELD DISSEM: STATE USMACV USAID CORDS DIR/JUSPAO
(MR. NICKEL ONLY) 7TH AIR FORCE USARV NAVFORV 525TH MI GP 1021 FAS
OSI CINCPAC ARPAC PACFLT PACAF [REDACTED]
REPORT CLASS SECRET/NO FOREIGN DISSEM